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October 5, 1994

Dr. George Hashim
Associate Research Director
Council for Tobacco Research-USA Inc.
900 Third Ave.
New York, NY 10022

Dear Dr. Hashim:

The FASEB Summer Conference on Membrane Molecular Biophysics was held July 16-21, 1994. Judging both from my impressions at the meeting and from the subsequent feedback from the people who attended the conference, it was a great success. This year's conference was attended by a record 130 scientists and featured 37 speakers and 84 posters. The nine lecture/discussion sections covered a wide range of topics on the molecular biophysics of artificial and cellular membranes, focusing on the roles of molecular structure and dynamics in membrane function. The most exciting new aspect of this conference was the greatly increased participation of molecular biologists and cell biologists, in addition to the usual biophysicists. There was a strong consensus that many of the solutions to practical problems in medicine - including the prevention and cure of genetically transmitted or developmental abnormalities - will depend on this kind of intense interdisciplinary discussion.

On behalf of the organizers of our FASEB Summer Conference, I would like to thank you for your generous financial contribution of \$500. The financial support of the Council, and of other groups similarly committed to supporting research in this way, allowed us to provide financial support for a number of young scientists (graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and assistant professors), who otherwise would not have been able to attend. These most welcome participants added a great deal of excitement and vigor to the conference, not the least because they represent the future of our field.

I want to express again my thanks to the Council for Tobacco Research and to you personally, for helping make this such a successful meeting.

Sincerely,

John R. Silvius
Professor
Co-Chair
FASEB Summer Conference
on Molecular Biophysics

JRS/ig